Clearing the dues of fertilizer companies

4017. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether faced with major shortage scenario, his Ministry has asked Government to immediately allot Rs. 10,000 crore to clear the dues of fertilizer companies and inter-ministerial note circulated has pointed out that uncertainly in the fertilizer industry is affecting their working capital and production would be affected;

(b) whether Agriculture Ministry also has supported the move as farmers desperately need fertilizer ahead of the Kharif sowing season; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The matter regarding pending subsidy dues is constantly engaging the attention of Government. An allocation of total Rs. 22,451.01 crore has been made under BE 2007-08, which will be partly used to pay the dues to the different fertilizer companies. Government will endeavour to provide additional funds during the course of the year as required to meet the current year's requirement.

Decontrolling sugar industry

†4018. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to decontrol the sugar industry from Government control was taken during last years;

(b) if so, when this decision was announced;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present Government have sought the opinion of an expert Committee to decontrol sugar industry from Government control; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.